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ABSTRACT

In March and April 1968, the author was a guest of the U.S. Information Service on a two week trip to Pakistan and Afghanistan. During this stay, 30 libraries in five cities were visited. This paper describes this trip and relates the library happenings in these countries. It was obvious that Pakistan librarianship had advanced beyond the profession in either Iran or Afghanistan. There were many more librarians, more of them capable, more curiosity about foreign ideas, more concern for the present, larger book collections, larger buildings, more library schools, more active library associations, and more library publication. Yet all of this development has occurred in university and special libraries, not in school or public libraries, typical of Southwest Asia. And the picture seemed to be standing still or else moving ahead very slowly, as if the librarians had been trained before the nation was ready to support them. There seemed to be no evidence of a surge forward in public libraries, as there was in Iran or of major budget support for university libraries as there was in Ankara. Furthermore, the problem of over population had to be dealt with successfully or there would never be per capita improvement. Since Pakistan's economy was moving rapidly ahead, perhaps good library budgets and new building plans would also come, but one wonders if a country r w so poor would support good library service even in the next generation. (LI 004244 through 004260 and LI 004262 through 004267 are related.)
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PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN LIBRARIANSHIP

In March and April 1968 I was the guest of The U.S. Information Service on a two week trip to Pakistan and Afghanistan and gave six lectures, consulted on numerous library problems, and visited 30 libraries in five cities. The entire trip was enjoyable, due in part to USIS planning and hospitality, Intercontinental Hotels, Pakistan International Airlines, and to the warm greetings of librarians in these countries. This paper was written to describe the trip for interested readers, to say "thank you" to Pakistan librarians, and to "carry the word" -- to perform a traveller's function of telling Chicago librarians, for instance, about library happenings in Karachi.[1]

Dacca.--Dacca impressed this comparative library science student with its lack of automobiles, over-population, illiteracy, bicycle rickshaws, scooter taxis, its hot damp weather, cows in the streets, and extreme poverty. The number of people per automobile there must have been 500 times greater than in Los Angeles. On Iranian city street, occasionally hers od sheep are encountered, but in Pakistan it was cows; the walls around the houses were needed to keep out the cows. Also Dacca was a city hemmed in by Hindus on one side, Buddists on another, and Moslems everywhere I looked.

Library development was sure to be handicapped in this human, financial and educational climate. The physical appearance of the Dacca University Library and the East Pakistan Central Public Library impressed the visitor that he was in an exotic Southeast Asian climate. For relatively new buildings, they had aged quickly. Original construction had been inexpensive and the libraries had not been well repainted or maintained, by western standards, so looked shabby. The University's warped wooden stacks were a serious hazard needing early repair or replacement, and the book collection's physical deterioration was evident. However that library was used heavily, was oversupplied with clerks and undersupplied with professionals (apparently not even many Dacca library school graduates were available to work there), and had a book collection large enough to support respectable research in several languages and fields.

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[1] This paper is supplemented by "Librarianship in Six Southwest Asian Countries" which contains additional comments on Pakistan and comparisions with other countries.

The presence in Dacca University Library of a separate reading room for women surprised this newcomer and raised the question of Pakistan's acceptance of women. That most library school students were men was also surprising since that was true of no American Library school. Such a situation would be welcomed if one were not concerned that many women had been discouraged from entering the professions. Most Pakistan women librarians seemed shy and retiring; all wore the native costume. Some Pakistan women were even in deep purda which forbade schooling beyond age 14 or participation in school or business life. The problem was mostly that of the Pakistan woman librarian herself, and her tolerance of her chains to the past. When she cared enough for greater freedom and opportunity, she would have it.

M. S. Kahn, Director, Dacca University Library, was the Grand Old Man of East Pakistan librarianship, and he wasn't so old at that. Probably his leadership position was based on his assertive nature, his thorough understanding of modern librarianship, and his ability to carry off difficult and important projects successfully. One of his hardest projects lay ahead, however, that of training younger men to take over leadership from him and from dignified Ahmad Husain (East Pakistan Education Office) as East Pakistan librarianship grew in size, variety and complexity. They needed resourcefulness in finding opportunities for young librarians to secure a variety of leadership experiences.

The combined talents of the pleasant A. M. M. A. Khan, M. S. Kahn, and Ahmad Husain should have been able to improve the East Pakistan Central Public Library and get a new building constructed, but it was already more impressive than Karachi's Liquant Memorial Library. Ahmad Husain seemed ready to quit his thankless position as provincial public library officer in favor of the East Pakistan Central Public Libray. The reception held there after my talk was a very pleasant occasion featuring local fruit and tea.

Incidently, the language problem was both more complicated and simpler in Pakistan, where, among librarians, English was much better and more widely understood than it was among Iranians, but where also the majority of people in Lahore speaking Punjabi could not understand the Bengali-speaking Daccans, etc.

The East Pakistan University of Engineering and Technology library had too few books and too many patrons. Librarian Mohammad Shahuddin seemed very competant and will have many accomplishments in coming years. Something rare in Asia, his open stacks, deserved praise. No doubt a physics professor's background commanded much faculty and administrative respect, but two years of library school instruction would have made Shahuddian outstanding.

One of the last things noticed in Dacca was the native librarian's interest in leaving Pakistan. Some sought more graduate education, some a better position, and probably all sought a better living standard and wider career opportunities. Apparently it was true of many Southwest Asian countries that the educated natives wished to leave, but found it difficult to do so. And their dreams were always western, of Europe and America, never eastern, of going somewhere else in Asia.

The tour's best lecture crowds were found in Dacca -- large, interested, enthusastic, polite, and full of questions. I was sorry to leave them.

Karachi-- in Karachi, the wether was even hotter, and typical of Southwest Asia, there was almost no air conditioning.

All over Pakistan, British Council Libraries, and to a lesser extent USIS libraries, were busy renting student textbooks due to the cost and shortage of new books locally. This service should have been more widespread since the essential problems existed over all of Southwest Asia. The Karachi British Council Library was the largest seen (50,000 volumes) and was led by young and personable Neil Wilkinson. The USIS Karachi Library move away from the college campus area to the modern consulate was dictated by several motives and caused much discussion. Its use pattern changes will be interesting to see.

Rodney Sarle ran a well organized, attractive and air-conditioned Library of Congress American Libraries Book Procurement Center collecting Pakistan materials and sending them to American research libraries. It also cataloged the material and published a monthly accession list. Coverage should be expanded and material collected in quantity from Tehran and Kabul also. Every librarian in Pakistan

should have been encouraged to study this center because it provided an opportunity to see some of the policies and procedures of a modern western research library operating in a Karachi residential area.

Karachi had two of the best bank libraries seen in any country. The older and larger was the State Bank Library where Syed Riazuddin was the dynamic Librarian. The bank building was certainly impressive but the Library's size, murals, plush carpets, easy chairs and busy air were a contrast to most American bank libraries. This Library owed much of its importance to strong backing from high bank officials and was used by university students as well as bank employees. With 28,000 volumes and 500 subscriptions it was larger than all but a few American bank libraries. More Pakistan women librarians were needed like Mrs. Jameelunnisa Ahmed, head of the National Bank Library, a new research unit with private study carrels, a good book budget, growing staff, carpeted reading room, and easy chairs. She was forthright and gracious but not bashful, and had both library and economics education. Apparently these were two of a very small number of Pakistan libraries importing material with no difficulty.

Mohammid Arifuddin would have made a good American library association lobbyist. With the "getup" -- the chin whiskers and Pakistani clothes -- and all of that persuasiveness, Americans would have used him to win friends and influence congressmen. His library was small but his influence was great. Of course, much of his success in SPILL (Society for the Promotion and Improvement of Libraries) came from hard work. And speaking of Arifuddin, reminds me to speak of publications and of SPILL.

One of the areas in which Pakistan librarians can make a world contribution is thru their publications. If library science indexes will cover their material thoroughly, it will become well known and will be used widely. The Pakistan library journals -- The Eastern Librarian and the Pakistan Library Bulletin -- impressed this reader with their variety, inclusion of respectable papers, and use of an international language, English, enabling them to communicate with the outer world. They were sponsored by the East Pakistan Library Association and the Karachi University Library School Alumni Association respectively.

The several SPILL publications summarizing conferences reflected much hard work by such people as Adil Usmani (Karachi University Library) and Arifuddin, but what did they accomplish? My guess is that two things have been accomplished: (1) some legislative and high government administrative interest has been attracted though apparently not yet leading to strong financial support, and (2) the bare outlines of national development plans have been described. Few evidences were presented of any effect on the libraries, financing for them or their sponsoring institutions. As a matter of fact, the SPILL conferences themselves seemed to contain too much rhetoric and vagueness and not enough facts, hard-headed and detailed planning for action -- sentiments and good intentions instead of realistic thinking, helpful statistics, administrative know-how and effective political action.

School and university libraries will rise with the prosperity of formal public education and not without that backing. As elementary and secondary schools secure better financing and more ambitious leadership, the need for improving their libraries will be felt in high places. As university research and teaching improves and becomes more westernized, the arguments of library directors will carry more weight. Also, as corporate research grows along with researchers' consciousness of the usefulness of technical literature, the need for strong special libraries will be felt more widely. Already good library examples exist for librarians to use in the special and university fields, something not present in most Southwest Asian countries.

No doubt realization came to Arifudding and others long ago that SPILL's area of greatest effectiveness was likely to be public librarianship. In this area lies their best chance to deal directly with legislators and govermnent administrators and to receive credit for their accomplishemnts. But thus far results seem to have been discouraging. A well publicized model public library providing many examples of helpful service to leading citizens would be very useful; probably its best chance of development is thru private or corporate support. No doubt Arifuddin has already realized the publicity advantages of a Karachi or Rowelpindi showcase location for it. But the vision of modern library service values must be gotten into the right heads before they can understand what they are missing and what they should press for. The lack of progress here may be blamed on the low literacy rate but

may be due as much to the lack of reading or intellectual interests of the upper classes and their lack of experience with the practical usefulness of public library service.

The two Karachi book centers -- the National Book Center led by dynamic and hard-working Ibne Insha and the Unesco Reading Center led by experienced Fred Scott-- were interesting but pitifully small and low budget attempts to combat enormous literacy and reading problems.

Probably the best known Pakistan information organization seen was PANSDOC. Its physical quarters were pppressive but its accomplishments were impressive. In a country with 50% illiteracy, to provide modern personalized information service of such a high order and in such large volume was challenging. To thread ones way thru Pakistan bureaucratic red tape and government requirements toward such a goal itself required the tact and energy of an A. R. Mohajir, to whom PANSDOC owed much. Even without a union catalog, PANSDOC was a major center of library cooperation for the entire country. Certainly PANSDOC urgently needed better housing, an effective start on a national science library, and a computer. Plans for the proposed Iranian Documentation Center called for close cooperation and inservice training sessions with the able PANSDOC staff of young and not-so-young information scientists. In ten years PANSDOC should be Pakistan's online real time computer link with technical collections elsewhere in Southwest Asia and Europe.

In its early years, the Jinnah Post-Graduate Medical Centre Library had two American librarians, yet three impressions about it struck this observer: (1) that the Americans were operating with very small import budgets since the book collection was still so small, (2) that, in spite of its modern microfilming service, this library seemed not to be the busy major research center that one might expect in a post-graduate medical centre, and (3) that the current librarian, Zahiruddin Ahmad, was a worthy successor for the Americans.

Out on its rural campus, the Karachi University Library building looked on the outside like a monstrosity. The inside, however, suggested another plain, inexpensively constructed Pakistan library, functionally organized. This major

library must solve its acquisitions and salary problems before it can serve its graduate students well and university and government officials must be convinced of this before the library can begin to move forward strongly. It would seem that the development of departmental libraries on such a compact campus with such financial restrictions should be discouraged, but perhaps administrative and budget lines for these libraries are relatively free.

Director Moyd entertained pleasantly with a library luncheon for leading staff members and guests, all male. These Karachi University Library men formed the largest group of strong librarians seen in one place, a tribute to Moyd's recruiting ability -- and to the shortage of good Pakistan positions. With serious budget and import problems-- as found in so many Pakistan libraries-- the strongest feature here was the staff. Its leaders--two Rutgers, one Illinois and one Michigan graduate--seemed very capable. If given the chance, the dignified Moyd and the handsome Usmani could be successful directors of American university libraries, and Akram could be successful directors of American university libraries, and Akram could teach there any time.

The Karachi University Department of Library Science was the oldest and largest in Pakistan and its penthouse location unusual and appealing. Much credit should go to Dr. Moyd and the faculty for introducing one of the first Asian library science doctoral programs. My library school talk seemed to interest the gowned students and faculty members, but only the men were brave enough to ask questions.

Lahore.---In Lahore, the mall supported the contention that this was Pakistan's most attractive city, but any place with a Geoffy Glaister, a Preston Amos, and a Mrs. Nawaz had to be an interesting library center. Glaister turned out to be an experienced British Council Library hand, known for his publishing encyclopedia and decorated recently by Queen Elizabeth. Since then he has probably burned 100 rupees worth of incense and entertained several groups to celebrate his decoration. By all means have luncheon in his museum-residence if you're invited. Amos will make some American city a likable and respected library director, but he shouldn't leave Lahore until he gets the cataloging backlog caught up. Both Amos and Glaister operated regional technical processing centers. One of the pleasantest events in each city was dinner in the USIS librarian's

residence, and Amos' party was an excellent example.

Mrs. Nawaz at the Institute of Education Library on the attractive new Panjab University campus was a forceful librarian. She inherited a modern education library from the Indiana University education team and by brains and force of personality kept it going in the right direction. Her research project on Pakistan university libraries also seemed very capably done. She and Mrs. Ahmed of the National Bank seemed to be two of the best librarians in Pakistan. It would be interesting to see her as Panjab University Director of Libraries or else as Assistant Director under Ghulam Rasool Shah, if Director Abdur Rahim Khan remains in the Registrar's office.

Both Panjab University and West Pakistan University of Engineering and Technology needed new library buildings. Panjab had a large and useful book collection, poorly though centrally housed. Regrettably, Director Khan was so well considered by University officials that he was frequently asked to fill non-library administrative positions there. Hopefully, he could use the good will thereby engendered to secure library improvements. Mohd. Ramazan explained the Technical University Library's recent and rapid progress capably, but having a book on his desk containing some of my own editorial work may have contributed to my good opinion of him.

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Center Library offered modern services with a good budget, and Librarian M.M. Rafique deserved a trip to visit the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Information Division and the International Atomic Energy Center in Vienna.

The venerable Panjab Public Library had three buildings, a sizeable book collection, and few patrons. An open shelf policy would have improved use, especially since the penalty for material loss was apparently not taken as seriously in Pakistan as in Iran. Weeding and public relations programs would also have been beneficial here.

Apparently there was an over-supply of Pakistan librarians. If true, Pakistan was unusual. Perhaps it indicated the slow development of the elementary and secondary education worlds. In the United States last year, elementary, secondary school, and public libraries serving primarily, in Pakistan these libraries

absorbed very few of them. If Pakistan school and public libraries develop strongly in coming years, then probably a librarian shortage will develop. In the meantime it would be desirable for other Asian countries to have some of these librarians, where a few could occupy leadership positions.

Salaries were certainly a problem though the general living standard was low, also, but was it so low for a professional man with a family? In the past generation, probably the American librarian had the highest salary in the world, but also one of the highest living costs. In his attempt to raise his salary faster than the cost of living rise, the American made no headway. Possible ways of obtaining such salary boosts were to increase the respect for librarians (very difficult), to hold the librarian supply constant while demand rose (even that was unsuccessful in the United States), or, to be part of an institutional group, such as universities, or federal government civil service, which raised its salary levels dramatically in a short time (as did American federal civil servants).

Peshawar.-- By the time Peshawar came up on the schedule, the trip began to seem tiring, just as it had for Carroll Moreland (American Bar Foundation Library, Chicago) last Fall near the end of his trip.[2] To some extent frontier Peshawar was a rest stop because there were relatively few libraries to see. After the triumphant return of old Pakistan hand Moreland to lead SPILL and other library conferences last Fall, he reported the Pakistan library situation to be disheartening, with little attitude change evident in high places. Also he felt that the development of respect for the professional librarian's competance and authority was slow in coming.

At the USIS Library, they still showed visitors the curtain hole made by the last bomb and were amazed to learn that most Tehran taxis carried the Prophet's picture, the presence of such a picture in the library have been the bombing cause. The Forestry Institute had an impressive building, spacious library quarters, and a small book collection. Many librarians would enjoy working in a building with such a woody smell.

Peshawar University had a small book collection in an old building; surely a new library must have been high on their construction list. Again, the staff, particularly Acting Director Qamar Mirza, seemed the best thing about the library. For 7000

2 Personal communication from Carroll Moreland, May 29, 1968, Chicago, Illinois.

students, even Peshawar should have done better. The guest book contained such illustrious American librarian's names as Asheim, Swank, Lancour and Moreland, so Peshawar was not so isolated, after all.

The U. S. Air Force recreation library looked refreshingly modern with its plastic jacketed books being used heavily in such a primitive tribal area where many natives carried guns on the street.

In several Pakistan libraries, a proposed RCD regional library conference was mentioned. Upon investigation in Tehran, RCD's Cultural Institute was found to have very tentative plans for such a conference in Tehran in the Spring, 1969, or later, to discuss university library programs, particularly in classification. However, the chances of holding the conference apparently depended either on finding a financial sponsor or on delegates obtaining expenses from their own organizations. A tentative program is being developed to appeal to a wide span of university and research library interests. The possibilities of cooperation among these countries are good and the RCD conference should explore them.

Kabul. -- The view was beautiful from Peshawar thru the Kabul River Valley and the Khyber Pass as we ascended to the mountain city, high, windy, dusty, tribal, and wild. The river roared thru the city center, and the mountains towered nearby, but the Spinzer Hotel had a good bed and the Khyber Restaurant a good steak. Afghanistan seemed to be a mixture of Pakistan (the purda and the tribal influence) and Iran (the chador and the Persian language), with some of its own pecularities (new American cigarette brands, few telephones and few paved streets).

The USIS Library provided modern small public library service for all to see, but with 5% literacy, use was not heavy. Gordon Hanson of USIS was very helpful though we missed G.V. Bonny, one of the best known foreign librarians working in Asia, who was at the Higher Teachers College. Library education had come to Kabul recently in the form of a workshop for school librarians. A few years ago the Kabul Public Library got a good start under an Afghan American library school graduate, but his ability was soon recognized in higher government circles and he was made Director of Culture!

The Kabul University Library building was relatively new, designed by several leading American librarians, had a capable Afghan Director, Abdul Babury, and a helpful American advisor, Robert Bruce. However, the Afghans were still trying to learn how to use as well as operate it and had great difficulty finding book money. Neva White, Bruce's predecessor reported much progress in Kabul, and no doubt correctly, but this library seemed to be well behind most Pakistan university library development.[3] She reported not all the library ignorance and misuse to be Afghan but that foreign professors were often poorly prepared to use libraries properly, also.

Probably a small Kabul Library Club should be started to bring local librarians and assistants together for regular discussions, and certainly the library workshop idea should be continued. Afghanistan has had foreign aid from several countries and for many years but apparently will need much more; now that Bruce and Bonny have gone home why don't they try nearby Pakistan library advisors?

Conclusion. -- On the slow Ariana flight back to Tehran there was time for reflection on the tour. Obviously Pakistan librarianship had advanced beyond the profession in either Iran or Afghanistan. There were many more librarians, more of them capable, more curiosity about foreign ideas, more concern for the present, larger book collections, larger buildings, more library schools, more active library associations, and more library publication. Yet all of this development had occurred in university and special libraries, not in school or public libraries, typical of Southwest Asia, And the picture seemed to be standing still or else moving ahead very slowly, as if the librarians had been trained before the nation was ready to support them. There seemed to be no evidence of a surge forward in public libraries, as there was in Iran or of major budget support for university libraries as there was in Ankara. Futhermore, the problem of over population had to be dealt with successfully or there would never be per capita improvement. Since Pakistan's economy was moving rapidly ahead, perhaps good library budgets and new building plans would also come, but one wonders if a country now so poor would support good library service even in the next generation.

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[3] White, Neva "The Kabul University Library" In Conference on Academic Librarianship in the International Milieu. Manhattan, Kansas State University Library, 1968.

In spite of such thoughts, this traveler left the area reluctantly, and in closing can only quote Carroll Moreland's feelings: " We left Pakistan in 1961 and again in 1964, each time thinking that we would not return. We left last December, hoping that fate would be kind to us again. [4]

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[4] Personal communication from Carroll Moreland, May 29, 1968, Chicago, Illinois.